

THE COLLEGE

# VOICE

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Toons

*see page*

## CUNY Students Fight Back

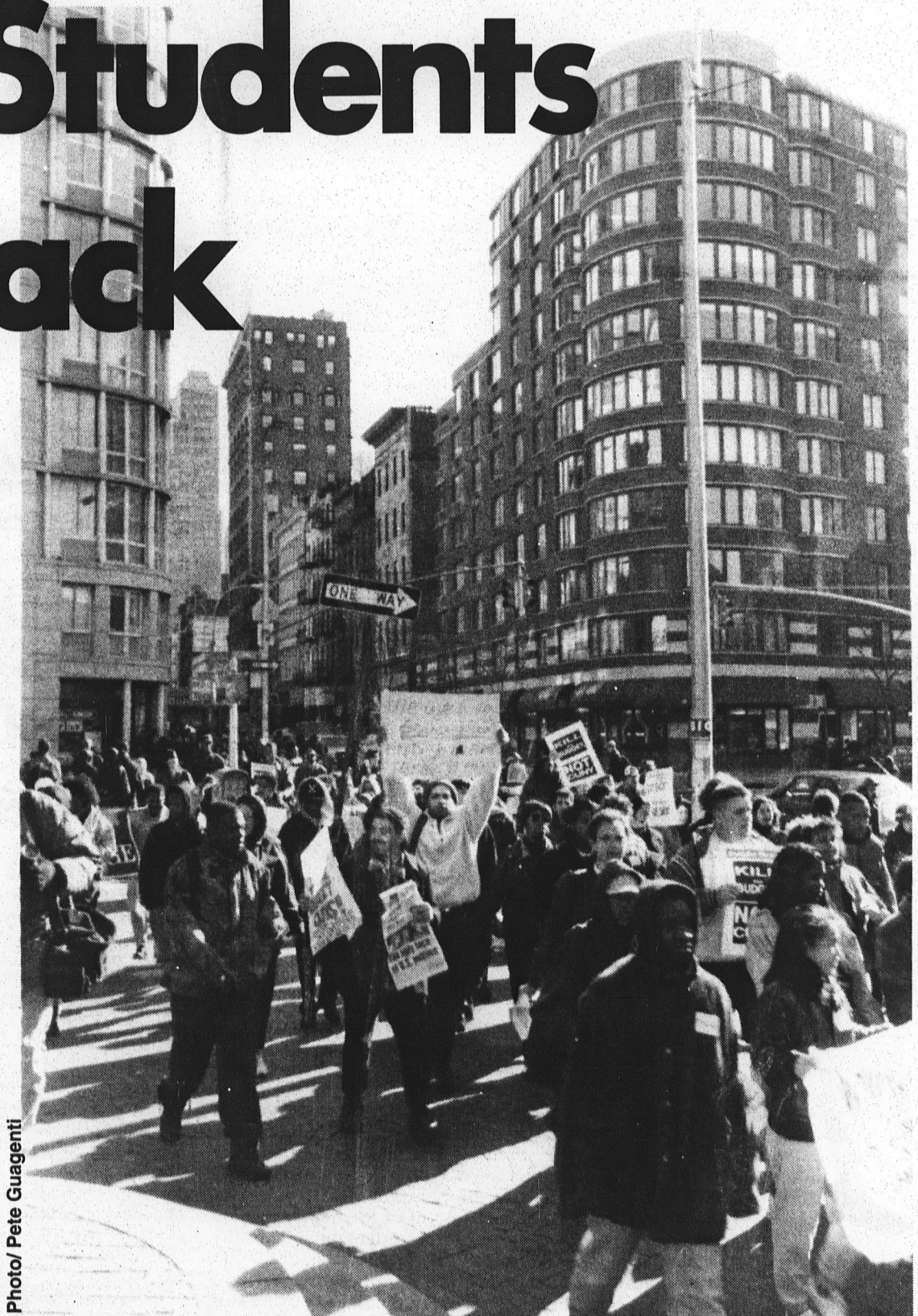
As the paper went out to press specific budget cuts slated for CUNY were not voted upon yet. The City Council and Mayor will face off in court to determine which budget will be implemented. While the liberal students, and administrators called upon students to write their politicians to reduce the cuts, the radical students organized a rally at City Hall in order to defend CUNY on the streets.

From the President of the college, to the "student groups" like NYPIRG, the United Student Senate and Student Government, they all agree that CUNY should be defended. The problem is, however, they are all willing to write off some of CUNY, or another public service they deem less important. The solutions they endorse are that of compromise. They readily accept the "budget crisis" and make deals with the politicians who are doing the bidding of the big banks. Those five-hundred students who marched around City Hall made the point clear, that cuts should not be the issue but instead retrieving the funds from where they exist, namely from the wealthy, and their corporate allies that make millions upon millions in the city and are taxed very little.

In this issue of the Voice we cover the student protest against the impending budget cuts, and the heavy-handed tactics of the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) administration where four Student Government senators were suspended and "escorted" off campus by CUNY security for organizing against the cuts (something our local Student Government is incapable of doing.)

If these cuts are indicative of the exploitive conditions in which we live, then the rise of the "right" in the recent elections is symbolic of the political attitude of the middle class. The commentary section discusses the recent elections, the politics of identity and the religious iconography that many of us fall prey to, "I pledge allegiance to the flag ...." On the whole, these pages critique some of the prevailing values and ideas of an ever more conservative and organized ruling class.

Another event of importance for the college community is the recent decision by the Staten Island grand jury not to indict the six police officers involved in the death of Ernest Sayon. Though we did not have enough time to cover the response of the community, we are featuring an interview with criminal lawyer Bob Doyle detailing the machinations of the grand jury. The purpose of this feature is to acquaint the Voice community with the shortcomings of that branch of the judicial system.



Photo/ Pete Guagenti

CUNY students and protestors march down Chambers st. to rally more students at Community College of Manhattan (BMCC.)

Biases of the Two Faced Grand Jury *see page 6*

# CUNY Students Rally

## Budget Cuts Galvanize Students to Fight

By JP Patafio

On Wednesday November 23 over 500 CUNY students protested in front of City Hall against the impending budget cuts. The Mayor put forward a budget proposal that would eliminate over \$7 million from the CUNY budget, and over \$190 million from public education as a whole. The students protested on that day because the City Council was scheduled to vote on the Mayor's proposal.

The Mayor proposed that over \$1 billion be gutted from public services, on top of earlier cuts made at the beginning of the budget year. Besides thousands of layoffs of city employees, entire social programs will be eliminated. At CUNY, students and faculty face increased hardships and a decrease in quality of services. It was these threatening conditions that made the students respond.

The City government which is dictated by State law to pick up 33% of the tab for CUNY community colleges (two year colleges,) is presently only paying 24%. Therefore, the current budget proposal is illegal since it allocates less money to CUNY than what the charter stipulates. However, such constitutional deviations are not new when it comes to funding for public education. Lawyer, Ron McGuire, who is presently defending four BMCC students who were suspended stated, "The present budget cut proposal is in violation of the State Education law." He believes that budget cuts may lead to the shut down of CUNY Community colleges.

The budget cuts will effect only those colleges which offer Associate degrees, which includes CSI, but in the broader picture it has been noted that at the heart of the matter is the open admissions policy. Presently this policy only applies to students attending community colleges. If students then wish to advance their degree from an associates to a bachelors, they would then transfer to one of the senior colleges in CUNY where a bachelor degree is offered. The struggle around the cuts for the community colleges take on even broader consequences for those stu-



The struggle to defend CUNY was brought out on to the streets around City Hall.

Students who attend these colleges with the intention of acquiring a four year degree that will increase their chances of getting a better job in the future.

For CUNY students the slightest increase in tuition or decrease in the budget can equal the end of their higher education career. Over 90% of CUNY students par-

ents do not have University degrees. One of the reasons for the low percentage is not the level of intelligence of these people, but the lack of access to higher education. CUNY did not have an open access policy until 1969 when African-American and Hispanic fought against the discriminat-

ing entry policy. The community colleges are the last bastions for students who had problems during high school to get a college degree. The students that attend these colleges were the ones to react most strongly to the budget cuts, since these colleges are already poorly funded.

## CSI Students Rally

By Windy Webb

On Tuesday, November 15, a demonstration was held at C.S.I addressing the serious issue pertaining to the CUNY budget cuts that Mayor Giuliani is attempting to impose. The cut backs would delete seven million dollars from the current CUNY system budget. The cuts would not only mean paying a higher tuition, but would also be canceling over 1,100 class sessions, the laying off of faculty, and deferring the admission of 7,000 new students. Several student groups, NYPIRG, Revolutionary Socialist Group, and individual activist at C.S.I attempted to inform their fellow colleagues, and the public about the disastrous effects of the cuts. A demonstration, organized by NYPIRG and Student Government/United Student Senator Natalie was held at the main entrance during club hours the day before the CUNY wide rally as a means of galvanizing other students.

Students from NYPIRG were seen at the main entrance handing out fliers, and talking with a bull horn to the passing cars on Victory Blvd. Security lined up behind the protestors asking them to put the bull horn away if they wanted to bring it onto campus, and to stay off the road. At one point, students who wished to demonstrate at the Campus Center disbanded from the site feeling they

would be able to address more people inside the campus. Head of security, Mr. Martinez, openly stated that he was against this, and that security would take "necessary actions" if students broke any Henderson regulations. Student activist and member of the Revolutionary Socialist Group, John Paul Patafio, stated: "We have a right to protest on campus if we want to. It is our right to free speech, get out of my face. . . ." Security responded by becoming anal retentive, and Martinez would not let Mr. Patafio leave the site until Mr. Patafio reassured him that he wasn't going to exercise any type of constitutional right.

The main point of the demonstration became to inform students about the rally at City Hall that was to be held the following day. U.S.S supposedly charted a bus for this event that was to bring students to and from the rally. On the following day however, no bus could be found, and student's were left to find other means of transportation. Faithful activists like Ryan Monroe, who is president of Student's for a Brighter Tomorrow, were forced to drive to City Hall. No one had any knowledge of what happened to the bus except that U.S.S. had made the prior agreement to have the bus transport students.

## CSI President Maps 'Sweeping Changes'

By Sarah Husain

While CUNY faces harsh budget cuts, the new CSI President Marlene Springer makes plans for a "better CSI." As reported in the Staten Island Advance, she envisions a "jump into 21st century education by using the vast array of technical facilities built into the new Willowbrook campus." At the same time students complain about the bureaucratic structure of the new campus which limits use of the technology largely to faculty and administration. The campus which at present is full of mud, contaminated, limited in parking space and has small classrooms, leaves many students with the impression that CSI will be limping into the next century, not "jumping."

President Springer wants to see a CSI "that not only teaches classes on the new, sprawling campus, but broadcasts lectures to other colleges..." Meanwhile, here at CSI some departments are limiting students enrollment into classes due to lack of tenured professors, and classroom space. The Sociology department prohibits professors from giving students who need upper level classes over-tally cards.

She wants to transform CSI into a college that provides Bachelor degrees, although 70% of students are enrolled in

programs leading to an Associates degree, and 30% are enrolled in Bachelor degree programs. Her idea of transforming the college is by eliminating the Associate degree programs she calls a "dead end."

She attacked the professors who teach Associate degree courses by saying, "It's like the difference between teaching shop and industrial technology—the skills are entirely different." This direct attack on professors and students who teach and take these courses is part and parcel of Central Administration plans to transform CUNY into a two-tiered university.

Keeping in mind that she is berating the education of 70% of students and the teaching of the faculty, it can make one wonder whether she is out for the students' best interest. Her elitist method of transformation is by sending students to other CUNY colleges that offer Associate degrees. She says in the Advance that "Kingsborough is a fine community college, and if that's the kind of education someone wants, they should go there." Kingsborough College, which is located in Brooklyn, is a long distance away from Staten Island, which the President forgot to look into, maybe

### News Analysis

continues on page 4

# Henderson Suspensions at BMCC

## Students' Rights vs. Administration's Venality

Special to the College Voice  
By Tom Smith

On November 29, 1994, BMCC's acting Dean of Students Daisy Alverio suspended each of the four-member executive committee of BMCC's Student Government Administration (SGA): Candice Camilo (President), Manuella Jean-Pierre (vice-president), Denise Esposito (Executive Secretary), and Camille Wynn (Treasurer). They had led demonstrations of hundreds of students on the BMCC campus, and organized the same numbers to participate in City Hall rallies, to protest Giuliani's new \$1 billion round of massive budget cuts, totaling \$7 million for CUNY. In what were obviously form letters, dated November 28, Alvario accused the students of "dangerous and disruptive behavior on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 22 and 23, 1994," on which days, alleged Alvario each of these students "blocked students' entrance and egress from the third floor South entrance and closed the doors to the escalators on the second and third floor South." In addition, each of the students were told that they had allegedly and repeatedly "entered almost all of the classrooms on the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth floors of the college demanding that the instructors and the students leave their classes in protest of the proposed budget cut." Their actions were thus, according to Alverio, "in violation of Henderson rules #1, 2, 3, 6, and 7." A disciplinary hearing scheduled for December 2nd.

The revised Henderson rules were passed in 1991 by the Administration in response to the CUNY takeovers in protest of yet another round of Cuomo's budget cuts and tuition hikes. The rules for which these students were specifically found in violation forbid University members to

1. "interfere with the institution's educational processes"
2. fail "to comply with lawful directions issued by" University officials.
3. occupy without authorization "University/College facilities or blocking access to or from such areas."
7. engage in "disorderly or indecent conduct."

In addition, rule #6, which the students were also charged with having violated, states that "Action may be taken against any and all persons who have no legitimate reason for their presence on any campus..."

Rule #6 is in fact itself a clear violation of the constitutional right to freely assemble

and to associate. The rest of these "rules" might seem eminently reasonable, and based upon laws against such conduct in the larger society. But we should note several facts. First of all, all of these "processes," "directions," and "facilities" are in the hands, not of elected representatives of the students or the faculty, but by a bureaucracy unaccountable to them, who get to define what is and what is not "disorderly or indecent." Anyone, therefore, who attempts to question or provide alternatives to these "processes"-and the Administration's control over these-can be charged with violation of these rules. Thus even a teach-in held informally in the cafeteria, or even a rally of campus, if held during regular class hours and if the Administration does not approve it beforehand, is a violation.

For example, Dean Alverio denied students access to their own cafeteria, as well as to media equipment, when they sought to protest Clinton's recent invasion of Haiti. By the way, Alverio herself, like many other BMCC officials, has been the "Acting" Dean of Students for quite some time. As "acting" dean, she is not elected. After climbing the bureaucratic ladder, she can also hold her position without even a search process taking place, involving faculty, students, and consideration of equal opportunity.

Secondly, to prevent legalized terror, the Bill of Rights stipulates "no cruel or unusual punishment." In other words, civil disobedience, while it may incur "disorderly conduct" charges, cannot be discouraged with punishments so severe as deportations. But deportations are analogous to the suspensions incurred for such violations on CUNY campuses.

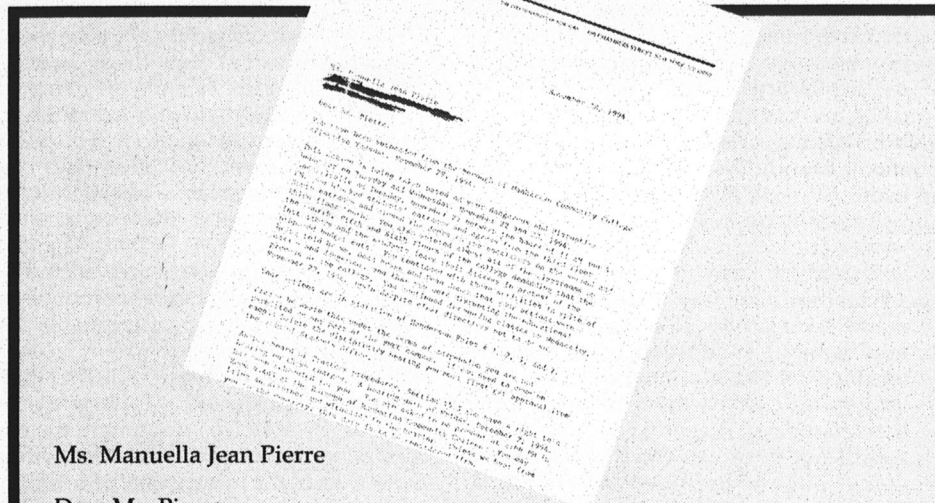
Thus these rules, in effect, provide extremely severe punishments for students' exercise of their constitutional right to political protest. It transforms CUNY campuses into virtually totalitarian regimes.

The venal Administration of Chancellor Reynolds employs these rules to hold down the CUNY student body while their educational opportunities are stripped from them by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees are members of the draconian, austerity-mad political, corporate, and banking establishments that run this city and state. And all in the name, according to the phari-

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Acting Dean Alverio looks on as the disciplinary hearing gets under way.



Ms. Manuella Jean Pierre

Dear Ms. Pierre:

You have been suspended from the Borough of Manhattan Community College effective Tuesday, November 29, 1994.

This action is being taken based on your dangerous and disruptive behavior on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 22 and 23, 1994. Specifically on Tuesday, November 23 between the hours of 11 AM and 5 PM, you blocked students' entrance and egress from the third floor South entrance and closed the doors to the escalators on the second and third floor South. You also entered almost all of the classrooms on the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth floors of the college demanding that the instructors and the students leave their classes in protest of the proposed budget cuts. You continued with these activities in spite of being told by me, Dean Bragg and Dean Jones that your actions were unsafe and dangerous, and that you were disrupting the educational process at the college. You continued disrupting classes on Wednesday, November 23, 1994, again despite clear directives not to do so.

Your actions are in violation of Henderson Rules #1, 2, 3, and 7.

Please be aware that under the terms of suspension you are not permitted on any part of the BMCC campus. If you need to come on campus before the disciplinary hearing you must first get approval from the Dean of Students Office.

As per Board of Trustees procedures, Section 15.3 you have a right to a hearing on these charges. A hearing date of Friday, December 2, 1994, has been scheduled for you. You are asked to be present at 4:00 PM in Room N-405 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. You may bring an attorney and witnesses to the hearing. Unless we hear from you to the contrary, this date is to be considered firm.

A copy of the relevant section of the procedures, those which govern the hearing is enclosed along with other pertinent materials. The Faculty/Student Disciplinary Committee specifically refers you to each enclosure. The hearing is scheduled to be a closed one. You may however, request an open hearing.

Sincerely,

Daisy Alverio  
Acting Dean of Students  
Enclosure: Henderson Rules  
Section 15.3 of CUNY By laws  
Hand Delivered

### CHANGES TO THE CUNY DISCIPLINARY CODES MADE IN 1991

- The committee chairperson would be appointed by the President of each Campus as opposed to an electoral process by students and faculty.
- This appointed chairperson need not be a member from the campus of the charged students.
- Quorum can be made up of any three disciplinary committee members; i.e., exclusion of a student is possible.
- The chairperson's role will be similar to a judge's in that it solely chooses on "all rulings for the committee" or the "impartiality of any committee member."
- The chairperson can rule on the evidence to be judged by the jury which may limit their ability to understand the situation and undermine their ability to ask relative questions about that person's case.
- The hearing can take place as soon as the administration would prefer. An informal conference between the student and administration and the student only need to be informed 5 days prior to the hearing. If an informal conference does take place the administration is not required to inform the student that what she/he may say can be used against her/him later on in a trial.
- Mandatory sentencing would be imposed. Therefore, making it unable for an appeal, even by the "President" himself.
- The students counsel must be paid for at the expense of the student, contrary to the administration's, which is paid for by our tax dollars.

## ... Henderson Rules

continued from previous page

saical preamble to these rules of "protecting" the "sanctuary of academic freedom against those who submit intellectual freedom to political end, or who violate the norms of conduct established to protest that freedom." The writer of these fine phrases seems congenitally unable to imagine that the establishes of these norms who collaborate in the calculated distraction of the nations urban working university could themselves capable of "political end."

According to these students, escalators were not blocked for any length of time sufficient to threaten anyone's physical safety (nor have any medical reports of injury been produced as yet by the Administration). In addition, the demonstrators blocked escalators and entrances only until guards asked them to leave: then they stopped. Legally, therefore, this would not even constitute a punishable crime- in the larger society, where people 18 and over are treated as rational adults, vested with rights which protect them from tyranny.

The students charged are all from the Nursing program, which would be most heavily affected by the cuts as proposed by the mayor. The program already has very stiff entrance requirements: a 3.4 G.P.A., for example. These cuts would make it even more difficult for many impoverished students to enter this very popular career-track field.

As a whole, the BMCC budget will be cut \$1.5 million. As a result, according to Nursing program Faculty Advisor James Blake, BMCC will have to shed 7,000 in enrollments, and 1500 classes. In addition, BMCC hires the most adjuncts in the CUNY system. Most of them will have to leave as well. And, of course, more hours of library and other services will be cut.

The BMCC student body is heavily black and Latino, and is especially targeted by these cuts. Thus, these students charge, these cuts are by their very nature "racist."

Their chief attorney, Ron McGuire, who also defended the CUNY strikers of '91, charge that it is Giuliani who is acting illegally with these budget cuts. Accord-

ing to State Education Law, the mayor is not permitted to make such cuts. He must provide 27% of the funding for CUNY. Thus the students were simply attempting to stop illegal action by the mayor-action which will risk credential of their school.

During the initial disciplinary hearing, McGuire noted the "symbolic" nature of these suspensions. While hundreds of students participated in these demonstrations, only the executive committee of the student government was suspended. In addition, each of these students received virtually the same letter. Each was charged, therefore, with all the charges, including entering "almost all of the classrooms" on three floors. It is highly improbable that each of these four individuals accomplished all of these charges. Clearly, these suspensions amounted to "selective prosecution," in order to "decapitate the student government and thus the political leadership of the movement." McGuire's assistant counsel, Mr. Roger Wareham, agreed stating that these reminded him of "conspiracy charges."

Why would the BMCC Administration punish students for organizing a political movement to defend BMCC? Another BMCC student, by the name of "Stephen," told the Advocate that "these bureaucrats' 'pockets' are the last to be affected." J.P. Patafio, student editor from CSI's College Voice, opined that these bureaucrats "could always be transferred to other schools even if BMCC folded"-as long as they participated loyally in this destruction. While she fired CSI President Volpe for his resistance to her "Consolidation" program, Reynolds rewarded her administrators with \$ millions for their cooperation in repressing the 1991 strike. SGA President and defendant Candice Camilo replied in the affirmative when I asked her if she thought that the Administration was politically sympathetic to Giuliani's racist austerity agenda. To secure their cut, the CUNY Administration is eager to please those who hold the ever tightening purse strings.

College Voice editor Patafio asked Alverio just before the hearing for a list of

specific charges. She replied that such a list might threaten the "confidentiality" of the students.

Despite Alverio's threat to keep it closed, the chair, Austin Williams, decided to open the hearing. Sixteen students coming late from Lehman and Queens Colleges were denied entrance, however, even though they counted "fifteen empty seats." They were even told by security guards that this was not a public meeting.

At the hearing, the students pleaded not guilty. McGuire moved for immediate dismissal of the charges and the students' themselves. Falling dismissal of the charges, McGuire motioned dismissal of the suspensions and a postponement of the hearing. Because the charges were so vague, McGuire demanded time for "discovery": a revelation from the prosecution of the evidence and witnesses they would present, so that "trial by ambush" might be avoided. Further, McGuire demanded a "bill of particulars," to clarify the specific charges presented against each specific individual. Wareham made a further motion that, given the political nature of

these charges, students stepping forward to testify for the defense, who participated themselves in these demonstrations, be granted immunity from prosecution for this protest activity.

Lawyer for the prosecution was Mr. Esrat Tulier, Assistant to the CUNY General Council. McGuire pointed out that Tulier is also the legal advisor to the Disciplinary Committee-a clear conflict of interest. Tulier stated immediately that he had no objection to lifting the suspensions and to adjourning the hearing to a later time to allow for discovery. He was less accommodating to McGuire's request for a bill of particulars, claiming that the charges were clearly stated and that to specify them further would be to "go outside the four corners" of the present charges, and thus to introduce new charges against the defendants.

The Disciplinary Committee agreed to lift the suspensions and to adjourn. The next hearing will be held this Friday, December 16th, at 4 p.m. The students plan to protest this political repression in the service of the Mayor's austerity program.



Lawyer, Ron McGuire, makes his case before students in defense of the accused four.

## ... Sweeping Changes

continues from page 2

because she has a car and a driver, and a nine room mansion on Todt Hill which is paid for by students tuition and tax dollar. Because CSI has to catch up with the 21st century, according to Springer, 70% of the students will have to travel to Brooklyn. Never mind that students here are still not provided with a shuttle bus from St. George; an area where a shuttle bus is a must because many students live there, and it's where the Ferry is situated bringing in many more students from other boroughs (27% of students attending CSI do not live on the Island, which is 3,392 to be exact). The President neglects the cost of traveling to and from school and that the idea of a community college where local residents can either advance their work skills or simply take a class which they may enjoy.

Her remarks reflect a general mood amongst the administration, the Board of Trustees and Chancellor, that CUNY should be managed like a factory in order

*Her remarks reflect a general mood amongst the administration, the Board of Trustees and Chancellor, that CUNY should be managed like a factory in order to produce better workers.*

to produce better workers. The recent attacks upon the Open Admissions policy as a reason for CUNY's decline is an ideological cover-up for the paltry funding of public schools. Sighting "data" and "facts" they point to the low admission policies for entering CUNY for its declining reputation. Instead they should look between these "facts" for the pattern of underfunding the university and public schools for any future changes. Such an attitude, however, may be self-incriminating and may set the stage of their own dismissal. When she calls the Associate degree a "dead end" because the degree doesn't lead to good enough jobs, how can she expect the students who don't get a regular High School diploma to get an appropriate education without open admissions?

To accomplish the transformation of CSI she claimed that she will work with students from off Staten Island, and look to work with students from New Jersey and Brooklyn and start toughening educational standards. As we know, the history of CUNY was established for the "underprivileged" (women, blacks, Hispanics) who could not afford other private institutions. Her idea of toughening education is completely biased. Her bureaucratic means of toughening the educational process will be limiting students enrollment.

She proclaims that such changes are not only necessary but for the good of CUNY; meanwhile about five hundred CUNY stu-

dents rallied on Wednesday, Nov.30 against the proposed CUNY budget. How are these changes to take place and why, when working class students are receiving these discriminatory budget cuts? Students are constantly being hit by administrators who can afford these changes. Our access to an education is being systematically phased out. The working class, who are the majority of the CUNY students, are being hit by tuition increase, limited classes, and programs, while still paying taxing amounts of tuition. Administration, of course, is not harmed by budget cuts, and she frankly expressed her position on these cuts when questioned by a student. She replied that she has nothing to do with it because the cuts are all a political game and she has her one vote and would use that privilege at the next election.

The President's statements may be an indication of why she was picked for the vacant job. The firing of former President Volpe due to his tepid disagreements to the policies of East 80 street, Central CUNY administration, has lead to the hiring of someone who is willing to carry out the program unquestionably. Students, faculty and staff have little to gain from such administrators, and must map out a different course that will truly be a leap into the next century.

The President did write a letter in response to the article in the Advance. If you would like a copy for yourself it can be obtained from her office. Due to page space we were unable to reprint it.

## Tuition Increases Slow Down, But Still Exceed Rate Of Inflation

(NSNS) - Officials of the College Board recently announced that tuition increases slowed at most institutions this year, but the rise in college cost still exceed the national inflation rate.

In its annual tuition survey, the College Board reported that undergraduates at public four-year colleges and universities are paying \$2,686 for tuition and fees (for CUNY the figure is \$2,...) on average, which is six percent more than last year.

The annual cost of private schools also went up six percent, to an average of \$11,709, according to the survey.

Meanwhile, the rate of inflation was 2.9 percent as measured by the Consumer Price Index for the 12 months ending in August.

"The good news is that the rate of increase has continued to lessen," said James Applebury, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. "The bad news is that any increase in tuition limits access, and the impact is differently hurtful for the economically disadvantaged, minorities and recent immigrant groups."

# Republican Contract Could Devastate Students

## GOP Plan Would Cut Student Loan Deferments, Campus Programs, Job Training

(NSNS) - Officials of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) have warned that the "contract with America" adopted by the new Republican majority in Congress will have a disastrous financial effect on college and university students.

"We've been given a preview of what a Republican-led Congress might do if it gains control," said Ed Elmendorf, AASCU vice president for governmental relations. "It's important that we react sharply against any cuts to campus-based student financial aid programs."

Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN) has produced a detailed analysis of the GOP proposals and what they actually mean in cuts. The contract does not include enough spending cuts to pay for its proposed tax cuts and balance the budget according to the report.

Even according to Republican estimates, the net effect of tax reductions and spending cuts will be to increase the federal deficit by \$148-billion over five years. The GOP is considering some 60 programs - including higher education - that might be cut to offset those losses.

The proposal saves \$9.6 billion by charging students interest while they are still in school. Currently, those payments are

deferred by the federal government until students finish school. Under the plan, students with four years of federal loans would have their debt increase by 17 percent on average.

Background materials provided by Rep. John Kasich (R-OH), an author of the plan, clearly state that all campus-based student aid programs would be terminated, saving the government \$2.9-billion. Half of the savings would go to increasing Pell Grant payments, and half would support deficit reduction. Meanwhile the contract calls for additional spending on the military, which already nearly consumes more than half the federal budget.

Since campus-based programs, such as Work Study and Perkins Loans, reach needy students who do not qualify for Pell Grants, the effect of the cutbacks would be a major blow to many campuses.

The Republicans' proposal would also cut \$7.6-billion from job training and education programs and consolidate them into discretionary block grants.

"It is our goal to clearly reinvent the operation of the federal government," said Kasich. "We believe we ought to move rapidly toward privatizing the operations of the government."

### Average College Costs This Year

	Public Colleges		Private Colleges	
	Resident	Commuter	Resident	Commuter
<b>4-year colleges</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tuition & fees	2,686	2,686	11,709	11,709
Books and Supplies	578	578	585	585
Room & Board*	3,826	1,684	4,976	1,809
Transportation	592	892	523	844
Other	1,308	1,314	991	1,123
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,990</b>	<b>7,154</b>	<b>18,784</b>	<b>16,070</b>
<b>2-year colleges</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$
Tuition & fees	1,298	1,298	6,511	6,511
Books and Supplies	566	566	552	552
Room & Board*	—	1,746	4,040	1,850
Transportation	—	934	569	908
Other	—	1,095	975	1,192
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5,639</b>	<b>12,647</b>	<b>11,013</b>

Note: The figures are weighted by enrollment to reflect the changes incurred by the average undergraduate enrolled at each type of institution.

\*Room not included for commuter residents. — Insufficient data. Source: The College Board

With these figures one can understand the importance of public schools for higher education.

# Springer Hands Out Awards at Dean's List Reception

by Edwin Luciano

The Dean's List Reception to honor those students who have achieved grade point averages of 3.5 and above took place in the Green Dolphin Lounge of the Campus on December 6, 1994. The ceremony was presided by Vice President of Academic Affairs, Barry Bressler, Mirella Affron, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mary Martel Zeldin, Dean of Science and Technology, as well as Distinguished Alumni Mary Ann Feola, Ph.D., Joseph Guerri, Ph.D.. Speakers also included, Rebecca Giacco, a CSI student. Professor Steven Zuckerman awarded the certificates that were handed out, to the students who attended the affair.

About eighty students and their families attended. Vast quantities of food and refreshments, fruits and cheeses were served. The upper echelon of the Administration, including President Marlene Springer, made speeches before the awards were distributed. Fleeting anecdotes were made and the usual corny jokes at which the students politely laughed at were made. President Springer spoke about how the reverence of the lowest common denominator, that has become so acceptable in society today, must be combated. She also spoke how the students on the Dean's list were taking a first step to fruitful careers and were meeting their highest expectations despite incredible odds. In short, the administration speech was long on encouragement and vague goals and short on discussing real question and answers.

When Rebecca Giacco, the CSI student spoke she mentioned, inadvertently perhaps, that the major she wanted to pursue was not available and staying at CSI was a matter of comparing costs with private institutions. One of the member's of the administration jokingly stated: "You can be sure this speech was not written by us." "Obviously not, what Ms. Giacco did was to address a real problem which the administration tries to avoid" a student present muttered. Once again the administration shows that it wants to reward student achievement handing out certificates but fails to address the real problems of students in getting a higher education.

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# Failings in the Judicial System

*This interview took place at the end of September and was supposed to be in the October issue of the Voice so that our readers could have a more objective understanding of the workings of the Grand Jury (GJ) process when it comes to investigating the wrongdoings of New York's finest, the NYPD. The discussion focuses on the grand jury process with an eye to the Ernest Sayon case. In particular the Voice has been covering the Ernest Sayon case and wanted to inform our readers about the*

**The DA is responsible for questioning witnesses, he is responsible for determining what questions, if any a grand jury or a grand jurer can ask and he charges the grand jury on the law before a vote is taken.**

*problems of the GJ process. The intention of this piece is not to explain why the police were guilty and should have been indicted, but to reveal how the judicial system can be manipulated in order for the ends of injustice.*

*Robert Doyle is a criminal attorney who has a long history of defending political prisoners (the most notable being Dharuba Bin Wahed, a former Black Panther framed by the notorious COINTELPRO) as well as people who have been victims of the "justice system." His experience and expertise about the GJ process and the "justice system" is valuable insight for anyone who is interested in justice and equality.*

*Though the Sayon case may have reached one conclusion most certainly the struggle for justice has not, and it is to this end that we are committed to.*

Voice (V) - What is a GJ ideally supposed to be?

Robert Doyle (RD) - Grand juries have historical origins way back to the Magna Carter (16th century). The idea is that people should not be forced to answer for an unfounded criminal charge (they should not even be forced through the process.) But historically, what preceded the institution that eventually became grand juries was that the king would institute a charge and force someone to stand for it and to fight it. One of the things that came out of the Magna Carter and through the years (and similarly in non-European systems of justice) was that before someone has to answer for what's called an infamous offense, which has come to be felonies, there has to be shown that there is some evidence to justify that a crime has been committed and that that person has committed the crime. So, what has evolved into the GJ is that the district attorney must produce legally sufficient evidence that there is probable cause to believe that the crime has been committed and that the person who is the target of the GJ that there is probable cause to believe that he or she committed that crime. That's always the determination that the GJ makes, is whether there is probable cause.

V - How does the grand jury operate? What's the role of the District Attorney (D.A.)? What's the role of the jurors?

RB - Under the law itself the D.A. is the legal advisor to the grand jury. That's technically what the district attorney office is in the state system, but the DA has enormous discretion into how to present a case to a grand jury, what cases to present to a grand jury, and what witnesses to call. The DA is responsible for questioning witnesses, it is responsible for determining what questions, if any a grand jury or a

grand jurer can ask and it charges the grand jury on the law before a vote is taken. The process leads up to a vote which leads up to what's called an indictment, or what's called a no-true-bill if the grand jury votes that it didn't have probable cause.

V - So if I am a jurer and I have a question, I have to ask the DA for permission to ask that question?

RD - The procedure is that once the DA is finished his or her questioning of a witness, the grand jurors can pose questions but that's done outside the presence of the witness and the district attorney determines whether the question is relevant to the inquiry.

V - Is there a judge in the room?

RD - No there is no judge in the room. The only judicial review after an extraordinary situation of the GJ matters is when a person is indicted. A defendant can make what's called a motion to inspect the GJ minutes and dismiss an indictment. So the court reviews the minutes of the GJ proceedings, the transcripts, and determines whether the DA conducted those proceedings under the appropriate law. And if the DA didn't do it, the court can dismiss the indictment. When a GJ votes no-true-bill, that is they vote not to indict the person, there is never any judicial review because there is no case.

**It's been my experience that when an ordinary citizen is brought up on charges, the DA just presents the minimum amount of evidence necessary to get an indictment.**

V - And I can't review it as well?

RD - No it's a secret. In theory, the GJ is to protect someone from unfounded charges. Therefore, the GJ votes that there should be no charge against that person. Its proceedings are secret for the very reason that if the charges were unfounded to begin with, then the public shouldn't be made aware of what the allegations were. It's designed in theory to protect the citizens, and to protect his or her reputation, the person who is charged with the offense. That's the theory behind the GJ secrecy.

V - Now let's go into the ways in which the grand jury functions when investigating the police as opposed to the ordinary citizens charged with a crime? How the DA handles the situation in each case?

RD - There are many differences and this has to be prefaced, of course, with the fact that the GJ proceedings are secret, there is no one in there monitoring it. But there are some examples and from practicing criminal law that we know of, for us to make certain determinations on the differences. It's been my experience that when an ordinary citizen is brought up on charges, the DA just presents the minimum amount of evidence necessary to get an indictment. They may do that for strategic reasons, because if you bring in every witness into the GJ there is more contradictions, there is more discovery the defendant can get later, because the DA only has no real obligations to prevent

what's called exculpatory evidence. There is a limited duty to do so under the law but their discretion is vast. So in the ordinary run-of-the-mill case that DA calls, for example, the complaining witness who was mugged on the street to say he or she was mugged and the circumstances of the defendant arrest and that's it. Not everyone who was within a block of the incident who might've seen something is called into to testify.

V - So, for instance if I was mugged and there were fifteen witnesses and one was on the corner while another was ten feet away, and the DA knows about both, he wouldn't necessarily ask both to come in and testify?

RB - Absolutely no! Its my experience and the experience of most criminals defense lawyers, that the DA just calls those witness who were going to help their case and get an indictment and that's it. In cases where police officers have been charged, it's also in my experience being involved in one case here in Brooklyn and also just for public information concerning the Sayon case, that they (DA) are putting everyone in to the GJ. There was a case here in Brooklyn where the police shot and killed a Puerto Rican man on the street. They (police) came up drew their weapon, he raised his hands, he was holding what turned out to be a beer can in a brown paper bag and was shoot to death. The officers claimed that they thought that it might've been a gun. There were a lot of

witnesses, people were looking outside from their windows on the street, and DA called about twelve eye witnesses in addition to the police officers, who can self testify. Whenever you have a lot of eye witnesses people remember things differently. When a Grand Jury is considering evidence, the DA could've considered the fact that people were remembering things differently and there is going to be contradictions. That creates a weaker case against that person in order to get an indictment.

I remember having a conversation with the DA in that case, and she decided to put them all in to let the GJ sort it out. In the normal course they would put in their best witnesses, get an indictment and then let penny jury at the trial can hear all those kinds of witnesses. From what I understand is happening out in Staten Island, it might be proceeding very much in the same way. They're putting in everybody (over 80 witnesses were called). There's going to be people who are going to describe the incident differently; where the person was standing, what did happen before, which way they were facing, etc. When the jury listens to this, particularly if the jury is already predisposed not to indict a police officer, they say "oh, look at these contradictions, what is the truth?"

V - Is it common for the DA to call the police officers last in the Grand Jury process? And what do you think their lawyers are telling them to say?

RD - The DA can answer that question, because the DA has discretion as to the order of how the case is presented. It's always been more advantageous for the defendant to go last because their testimony is fresher in the mind of the grand jurors. Usually the defendant is the last to testify, but the DA has that discretion. In another court case held last year a defendant objected to going into the grand jury before anyone else and the court ruled that was okay. It is the DA's ultimate discretion to do so. It can come both ways because the DA is also responsible for questioning every body in the GJ. The defense lawyer, although allowed to be in

room can not talk. In the normal course, without a judge there, the DA can really tear into the defendant who testifies because they (defendant) can't object, they have to answer the questions. It's really frustrating! Obviously we don't know the manner in which the DA in the Staten Island case has or will be questioning officer Brown. Whether the DA will be confrontational with officer Brown or whether he's just going to let him make his appeal, but that's another discretionary thing that the DA can do once he testifies to the GJ. If no indictment is voted we'll never know.

**Eventhough, in theory it is an independant body, the DA has the authority and the discretion to use the grand jury process in whatever way he sees fit.**

V - Can we get the recorded transcripts in order to review how the case was handled by the DA?

RD - NO!

V - Can anyone ask the people on the GJ how the case was handled after the decision is taken?

RD - No, they are sworn to secrecy. The only way you can get it potentially if the Sayon family files a civil suit, which I don't know is filled or not. They can petition the court to release the GJ minutes, accept you have to show a very strong need for that. It's just not normally discoverable. You need a court order, and it's very hard to get those. If they (GJ) vote a no-true-bill and do not indict the officer, the DA of Staten Island can say, "we conducted an exhaustive investigation, called in over eighty witnesses, the GJ sat for three or more months and obviously there wasn't no wrong doing. We let the people decide!" So it gets very difficult for the Sayon family to get the records of the GJ decision.

V - What's the history of Grand Jury's decision when a police officer is charged? Is there some kind of a pattern that is usually seen when GJ is making a decision on whether or not to indict a police officer?

RD - Well first of all you have to get the DA of various counties to even present the case to the GJ. That's the first hurdle, they don't have to if a police officer shoots someone and the person dies or doesn't. It's not necessarily true that the case has to go to the GJ because the DA in their discretion can say no crime was committed the shooting was justifiable. It's rare that a case goes to the GJ, in a case of police shooting or a police beating. Once it gets there the DA has discretion as to what charges to submit, murder, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicides, and so forth. There's a close working relationship, obviously, between the District Attorney's officers and the police because that's their witnesses for most cases. They are working with the police all the time.

V - In that case you can see people say that the DA protects the police. Then people may point out, in many cases in NY, even if the police is taken to trial they were then let off whether the case goes to the GJ or not.

*continued on last page*

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# EDITORIAL & LETTERS

## Defend Free Speech and the Right to Protest

In the past week four students at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) were suspended for organizing fellow students against the budget cuts at the CUNY community colleges. These students were not advocating the downsizing of CUNY, or to increase the pay for administration, but instead engaged in a political activity not to the liking of the administration. The students were escorted, during the middle of next day's classes, by CUNY security and immediately suspended. Aside from the violation of due process, students do not seem to have any rights beside those of paying tuition on time and sitting in crowded classrooms. These students were exercising their right to free assembly, free speech and to protest what they believed to be unfair, and illegal, namely budget cuts that land disproportionately on the backs of the working class, single mothers, African-American and Hispanic students. We demand that the charges against the four students be dropped immediately.

Meanwhile, on our own campus, student activists were once again threatened with arrest if they attempted to rally beyond the prearranged zone dictated by administration and imposed by security. Not only were students limited to where they could assemble but no amplifying devices could be used on campus. Students were reminded that the use of such devices is illegal and could result in their arrest during future protests. How dare we think of using a bullhorn on our 206 acre campus! We did not realize that our natural voices were designed in such a way that they would resonate freely throughout the campus grounds. We would not want to disturb the student body, we should just leave that to the budget cuts.

These blatant attacks on our right to free speech and the right to assemble (Anywhere! Anytime!) is justified by the supposed though unsubstantiated safety issue that the administration proclaims is in our behalf. These politically motivated tactics are designed to repress any dissent among the student body towards administrative actions and the political programs behind them. Mayor Giuliani, Chancellor Ann Reynolds, President Springer and their appendages would be very happy to see us lay silent as they walk all over us. It is difficult enough to defend one's access to a quality higher education, now it seems that students now have to fight for their right to protest and free speech.

### No Justice! No Peace!

As the paper was on its way to the printer, the grand jury's verdict on whether or not to indict the six police officers from the 120th precinct involved in the killing of Ernest Sayon was decided. Once again "justice" is color blind, refusing to indict the officers in blue. In this case, however, the police are not alone in making sure that things remain the same, i.e., unfair and unequal. The District Attorney did a fine job in persuading an already biased grand jury that the cops acted appropriately. DA Murphy's statement in the December 9 *SI Advance* after the grand jury released its decision is a clear indication of what attitude this prosecutor had. "The police officers in this matter behaved bravely, behaved sensibly, and behaved appropriately." What is being questioned here is not whether these officers have virtuous characters but whether they acted legally, something the DA fails to mention.

Is this the voice of an impartial investigator? We at the Voice do not believe so. We believe that justice was not served in this case and call for the DA to release the transcripts of the grand jury minutes so that the bias of the system can be clearly exposed, and that the proper decision to indict the police be served.

Deadline for any, and all submissions is Wednesday, January 19. Letters should be addressed to the Managing Editor of the paper.

The Voice will be holding a public meeting during recess on Thursday, January 20 at 1:30. All are welcomed.

## Decisions According to Race Lines

To the Editor,

I want to attract the attention of the College Community on the situation I have experienced this semester in our soccer team.

The coach, Jim Donlan, and his assistant John Mclean, have continuously made their decision according to race lines. The skills, the experience, the physical fitness and the tactical matters were secondary to them. This is being repeatedly felt by the whole team as being an injustice toward the spirit of the game.

For instance, the choice of the captain was based on certain principle. The team had a lot of new players and some very good minorities players who have been playing for the College of Staten Island for the last two years. The coaches did not choose a minority as a captain but a new White player. It was strange to choose a new player as a team leader. This never happened in any team in the world. I have personally nothing against the nominee captain and I am certain that he did not ask to become a team captain. It's ridiculous to have such attitude in the sport. This is similar to have an American presi-

dent from another country.

The distribution of the equipment was based in some kind of principle: the White players first and then the Black. In soccer, the numerical order of the shirt is from one to twenty two and almost all Black players were wearing shirt ranging from eighteen to twenty two. Some minorities players never spent more than ten minutes on the field during the game even when the team was leading by many goals. Some of these players were even better than their white teammates who spent longer time on the field.

Some minorities who played last year for the College of Staten Island were denied to join the team this year such as Kent and Carlos for some unjustifiable reasons. Probably because of the color of their skin. All players were given a new pair of soccer boot but one Black player named Ernest Debrah. It was inconceivable to deny a soccer boot to this Black player.

This fact is a shame and should not exist in our school. Racism should be eradicated from our institution.

Sincerely Brice Yonge

If you are a member of a school group and would like to advertise for free an event then you should get in touch with the Voice. All submission must be approved by the Voice staff and editors.

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The College of Staten Island Student Newspaper

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# A Wake Up Call to Student Government

“...check Yourself before you Wreck Yourself”

**By Devon Blinth**  
Forget for a moment that CUNY is under attack by Mayor Giuliani. Forget that Chancellor W. Ann Reynolds (WAR) has been engaged in a consistent program of restructuring the finances of the University on the backs of students, faculty and staff while maintaining a uselessly bloated,

## Editors Opinion

bureaucratic administration. Forget that CUNY is apparently returning to in loco parentis through use of the Henderson Rules. What do you think about elected representatives on Student Government (SG) have done to counter these measures? Have they rallied and organized the students on these measures? Are they working with their counterparts at other CUNY colleges to formulate a strategic, disciplined plan of action? Hell no. That would be too difficult, too time consuming and, heaven help us, too radical.

With one eye on their resumes and the other on administration they've huddled together, thought really really hard and decided to write a letter to several politicians for the full restoration of funding. Though two million dollars have been restored to the CUNY budget it probably has to do more with what other student organizers have done, rather ceremonial letter writing campaign.

SG meetings have vacillated between organized confusion and whole sale chaos. It is not unusual for “senators” to curse, scream, pound the table, and threaten to beat each other about the head during these meetings. Many members of this motley bunch are chronically absent, in fact one student government meeting was canceled this semester because they could not even make quorum! When SG members are confronted with these absences the typical answer given is, “I was too busy to go.” One would have to be incredibly busy not to go about the business of representing close to fifteen thousand people.

Four leaders of the Student Government at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) were expelled by their administration for organizing a protest of CUNY students against Giuliani's budget proposal recently. They were quickly reinstated -at least temporarily- after a visceral outcry by BMCC, and other students from throughout CUNY; they now await their fate at the hands of a disciplinary committee this Friday, December 16, at 4:00PM.

As a body SG has been silent on the matter, no resolutions, no emergency meetings, no calls of solidarity, nothing. This is totally unacceptable, an attack on one group of CUNY students is an attack on all CUNY students. SG had better not be so smug in their positions because if they “get out of line” -whatever that means- they too could be easily suspended or expelled on specious premises. To their credit, Windy Webb was the only CSI SG senator who saw that it was in the interests of the students to let her voice be heard at the BMCC protest that day-and she was not representing the body. Indeed there are a few senators who genuinely feel they can make a difference in some vague amorphous way by sitting on that body, the majority however are wasting their time and ours and should damn well resign.

# Where is the Worker's Flag?

“The price of Democracy is constant vigilance”  
-Thomas Jefferson

**By Lou Bardel**  
To some the United States flag is sacred, held in such high esteem comparable to that of another limited and false example of security, the Bible. Both generally seem to have grown into established entities free of any deep critical analysis by the average United States citizen. In other words, we have allowed ourselves to become automatons whose minds have been pre-programmed to spew out religious rhetoric and imperialist war-monger propaganda. In the U.S. the word of God is, in general, customarily one to be revered and feared. Why? The chance that holy vengeance will fall upon our souls, and the waiting heavy hand of judgment day is what guides our religious morals. In the same fashion, here in the U.S., we fall under political pressure to blindly accept ruling class (and their congressional lackeys) ideas and values. Why? Similarly to the will of God, we fear the repercussions that come about from speaking out against our bosses and politicians. Not only that but we have become subtly brainwashed and divided by racist and self-serving political media tactics. Through this unconscious and apathetic concession to rule we have lost vital power within the political and economic arena.

We are taught from the time we are little to have pride in our country. We are led to assume that when the U.S. is involved anywhere in the world we are “right”. Our government and the capitalist class they enable work under the guise of democracy. It is common belief (by images projected from the television screen, radio airwaves, and lines of mainstream newspapers) that in 1991 the U.S. sent over troops to Kuwait to restore “democracy” and free that country of the Iraqi invasion. That was a blatant facade for the real reason “we” were over there. The United States presence in the Middle East was to eliminate the chance of any possible monopoly in the oil market, except their own. An Iraqi stranglehold on middle east oil reserves would have meant a tough time for fat cat oil tycoons and other multinational corporations back home here in the U.S. So when the federal government sent our young men and women to war, exposing them to harmful poison gas and the possible loss of life and limb, we were not saving a country from another country's aggression but covering the ass of a select few here in the U.S. If you do not believe it, then why didn't “we” run over to Rwanda right away, instead of letting the situation reach catastrophic proportions? Why have they debated back and forth in congress about whether or not to attempt to restore peace in Serbia-Croatia when that area is soaked in blood. The reason is clear: the United States ruling class (the rich, the owners of capital: the

American Plutocracy) do not have anything to gain by going into those countries. Situations like these are reasons enough to end this undiscerning national devotion and love of country stance. But this is only the tip of the iceberg.

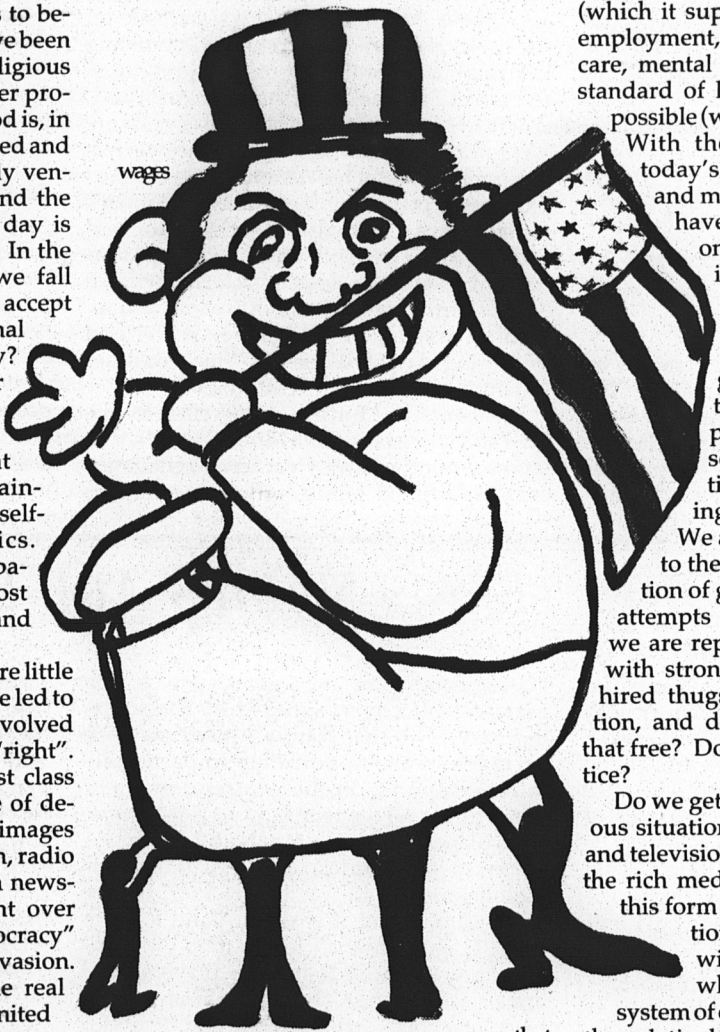
About one-percent of the population, which is the ruling class, control over 60% of the money bonds and 50% of the capital stock in this country. It is the failure of our government to progressively tax this wealth, and legis-

late higher their range of charms (low wage exploitation, and pollution to name a few). The U.S. corporation owner is a sick puppeteer travelling the world with the backup of the United States military.

When people say “burn the flag”, the average American response would be to become reactionary, “How dare they burn down the flag! Don't they know this is the land of the free?!” Bullshit! The United States government, along with the exploitive nature of a capitalist economy (which it supports), fosters poverty, unemployment, pollution, lack of medical care, mental illness, and a general poor standard of living compared to what is possible (which creates so called crime). With the technology available in today's world all children, women, and men should have the ability to have clothes on their back, food on their plate, and decent housing. Instead a small minority of rich ruling class citizens control a large portion of the wealth soaking it all in like a greedy sponge. Meanwhile, the rest of us are forced to petition these businesses scrounging around for relative peanuts never experiencing the luxuries that the rich do. We are, in essence, held prisoner to their monopoly of U.S. production of goods and services. The first attempts at improving our situation we are repeatedly slapped in the face with strong arm tactics by the state's hired thugs (cops), anti-union legislation, and disproportionately taxed. Is that free? Do our congressmen do us justice?

Do we get critical analysis of this obvious situation through mainstream press and television? No, of course not, because the rich media corporations that control this form of communication/information have pleasant relationships with politicians and are the ones who directly benefit from our system of economy. An economy where the relatively few prosper, and the rest, especially minorities, are exploited and struggle unfairly to assemble a decent life. This ladies and gents, is what the red-white-blue represents. There is no hope anywhere inside the two major parties that exist today, both Republicans and Democrats alike support companies where the rule is, profits over people. Most of us, as working class people, are in constant opposition to these two parties in our quest for a better life. It is time to organize a much more progressive political party interested in taking control of what rightfully belongs to all the people of our society, from free education to free health care. The point is to redistribute the wealth, take it out of the hands of the rich and put it back into the hands of the common man and woman so that we can build a more equitable society.

Burn the flag.



is one of the leading causes of wide recession and depression. When a country is faced with this kind of economic climate the burden inevitably falls on the backs of the poor and working class. This shows itself in the form of severe budget cuts to social services (public schools, public hospitals, public transportation, fire department etc.), and deterioration of the infrastructure (public roads, public parks, garbage collection, etc.). This does not sound to me like a “government of the people” but rather a government that serves the few. These recessions and depressions are caused because people cannot buy back what they produce, thus the need for policies such as GATT and NAFTA. Trade agreements such as these allow capitalists to grow beyond the land that they have soaked dry. It enables multi-national corporations the chance to move into another country and display

We invite those who have different opinions than what is written here in the commentary pages to please pick up a pen and write away. We are certain that there are dissenting views out there. So what better way to clarify the issues than through discussion and debate.

# MARTHA STEWART: BAREFOOT, PREGNANT AND IN THE KITCHEN

By Sarah Husain

Through the mechanisms of capitalist patriarchy the social idea of a "women" is constructed. Martha Stewart, host of a popular TV show, reflects that ideal of what a women should be in present day society: a model of submissiveness, modesty, beauty, a "good" cook and a "loving" housewife. Through her program she teaches all women how to take care of the house and prepare food, as a "righteous" women should. Behind this sophisticated marketing scheme, however, lies the oppressive conditions most women find themselves subject to.

*The pragmatic lessons which Martha Stewart markets, is a clear example of how far we need to go.*

Despite the historical achievements by the women's suffrage movement, i.e., basic bourgeois democratic rights such as the right to vote and own property, there is still an abundance of social inequalities which toothless reforms, via legislation or

cooking programs, can never transform. The pragmatic lessons which Martha Stewart markets, is a clear example of how far we need to go.

The bourgeoisie constantly reinforces the ideology that all women have equal opportunity (under the law) to achieve the "American dream." Existing beside these messages of "freedom and equality", however, are those images of pornography, Barbie dolls and abuse. Martha Stewart is a parasite on the backs of oppressed women. Convincing her audience that their second-rate status is the norm. She sells her house-work products in order to make their misery a more comfortable one. This politically correct impression of achievement is maintained by the corporate media, because a women's place as an indentured housewife and cheap labor benefits only the prosperous ruling class/men. Instead of hiring women (with equal pay instead of two-thirds) requires paying for pregnancy leave, and providing day-care centers. Such cost are too much in these "difficult times."

It is beneficial for the ruling class to display such programs, like Mrs. Stewart's, that support nuclear family values. To challenge such traditional family religious values is

not in the management restructuring scheme. Instead the expansion of exploited women careers should be in-house-related; i.e. planting, cooking, motherhood, etc.

Despite all of the beautiful and easily accessible ways that she teaches the women to do house chores, it is obvious that she is trying to administer a petty bourgeois life styles. With this life-style, which obviously, a majority of working class women do not have, the program aims to inspire working class and poor women who can not afford the food, table cloths, and everything else that she displays.

Programs such as this, that maintain the right of institutional sexism and racism, should be abolished. It shoves liberal family values down the throats of women of color, telling them to aspire to the white Anglo-American values of the "rich and famous." Programs like this that constantly reinforce the right of the exploiters to keep women "barefoot, pregnant and in the kitchen" have to be challenged. For sure, women's equality will not rise from such self-serving programs.

## Identity Politics

by Sarah Husain

Single issues do not exist! People are drawn to issues that are of immediate concern to their daily existence. For example, CUNY students will fight against impending budget cuts due to the effect it will have upon their education. There is, however, more to this struggle than what appears at first.

Students are part of a greater (oppressive and exploitive) society with numerous relationships in civil society where the struggle between the ruling and working class plays itself out. The immediate struggle of the student does not just finish when the bourgeois politicians decide to decrease the amount cut from CUNY. In addition to the CUNY part of the budget, there are assaults on every area of public services that effect working peoples lives. Within that budget, youth programs, elementary and high school, public hospitals and other public works are charted to be hit, and hit hard. Political programs that propose to students to just fight for CUNY are short-sighted and are usually linked to political groups and people that have either a stake in the present system, or would like themselves to be a politician one day.

Politicians, both liberal and conservative, Republican and Democrat, are certain to strike again. They will push for tuition increases, more cuts in health care and other social services. In order to address these issues in an effective way class differences must come to the forefront. Not because of any subjective factors, but because the political economy dictates it to be so.

The politicians create budgets in the framework of capitalist relations, and do the bidding of Wall st. and the big banks. In the present period where profits are harder to come by, public services are just an added expense that are of no value to them. Public health care, and education are things that they do not need to worry about because their pockets are full of cash, and they can afford the best that money can buy. The politicians are fair, they propose to cut everything across the board, at the expense of working people.

So in the economic sense the struggles against particular cuts can not be successful even if their piece of the pie is restored, because we live in a society that is interwoven like a rope. When one string in the rope begins to deteriorate or loosen the rope becomes vulnerable and will eventually fade away. At best such single minded programs will only increase the tension between struggling groups further weakening the ability of the working class to fight in a unified manner. The increased tension will place working people in the marsh of Balkinization, where people will be fighting around racist, sexist, reactionary programs that will lead us nowhere but to absurdity.

The political idea behind identity politics is that each group faces a distinct injustice, and that their democratic demand for equality is best fought against alone. Groups that the most marginalized will sight experience as to the reason why they must fight alone. Blacks, feminist and homosexuals will claim, with certain accuracy, that most of society does not understand their oppression, therefore others can not be a part of the solution. The best that sincere people can do is support their cause, otherwise they will become obstacles.

It is understandable why certain groups respond this way. We most certainly live in a culture filled with racist,

## SPORTS TEAMS NAMES ARE UNFIT!

BY FRANK GILAMATRO

This year the St. John's University basketball team returned to the court with new talent, new hopes for victory, and a new name. Known for many years as The Redmen, this team is now going under the moniker "Red Storm". In an attempt to be politically correct, and also placate Native Americans, the St. John's team decided not to keep playing under the name of an ethnic group singled out for its skin color.

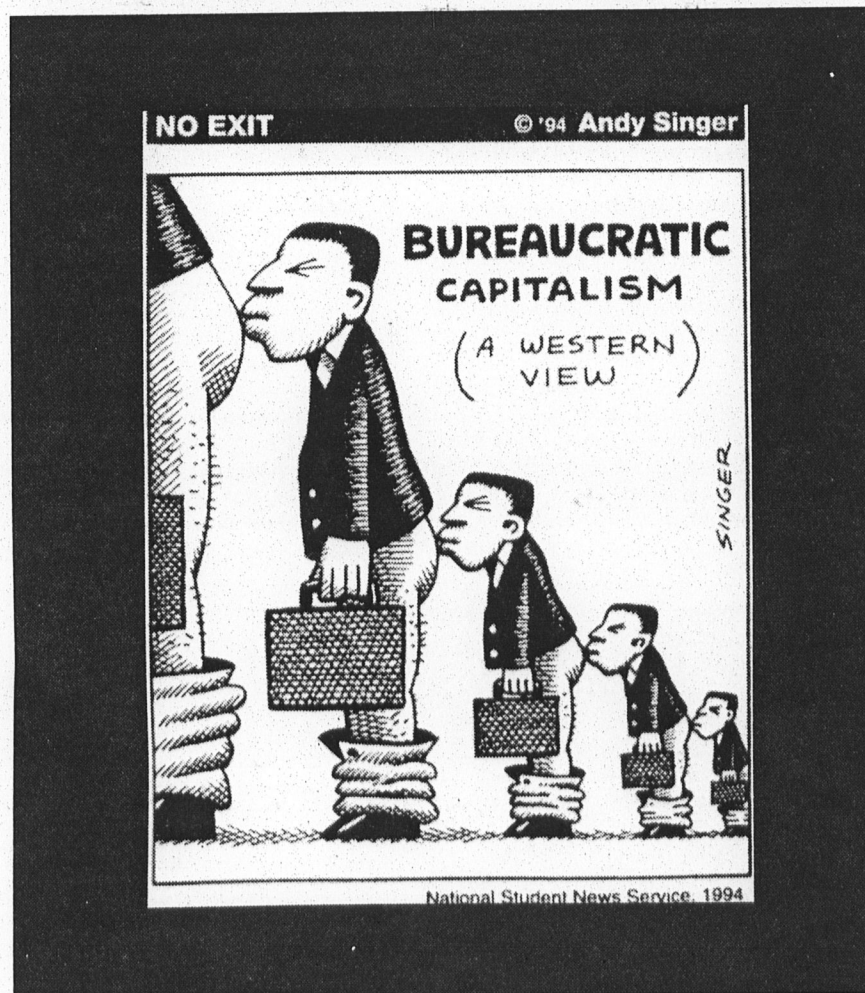
At a time when it is trendy to be conscious of what words and actions may be insulting to various groups of people,

Native Americans are a group whose feelings are collectively ignored by the sports industry. Not that Native Americans have been denied the opportunity to participate in major sports; on the contrary, many of them, going all the way back to Jim Thorpe, have played in the Olympics and in various sectors of the American and Canadian sports establishments. In fact, before 1947, Native Americans found it easier to land jobs on major league baseball teams than did African-Americans. It is not the players' race that is in question, but the names which popular sports teams go by that is under

scrutiny here.

In a few major cities sports fans across the country root for their favorite teams without giving a thought as to the teams' names and how the Native Americans react to them. Hockey fans in Chicago cheer on their Blackhawks. Cleveland and Atlanta baseball fans root for the Indians and the Braves. Football lovers in Kansas City and Washington, D.C. go wild for the Chiefs and the Redskins. These teams are not named what they are out of respect nor contempt for Native Americans. What is often cited is the powerful fighting ability and spirit of many Indian tribes that ruthlessly battled and protected their homelands from White settlers during the 19th Century. Teams with warriors-like names are encouraged to work harder with each step toward a victory. The fans who express their undying loyalty for these teams sometimes go as far as to wear warpaint and shake a fake tomahawk. If a Native American sat in either a Cleveland or Atlanta stadium and watched the fans act up during a game, he/she might laugh or be embarrassed at the unusual behavior. But now that the world is approaching the 21st Century it is not necessary for a sports franchise to have a derogatory and racist name of an ethnic group. It certainly would be shameful and nonsensical if a team from Harlem went around as The Blackskins or Darkies, or if athletes from San Francisco's Asian communities played as the Yellow Warriors. We don't come across teams named the Caucasians, or the Italians, or the Hassidics, or the Brown Arabs because they call attention to an ethnic group's heritage and skin color, and yet says nothing about them as human beings.

Sports traditionalists who have lived for years with their teams feel that changing the names would signal the end of an era. But some also believe the names are not as important as the athletes and the game itself. Babe Ruth was still "The Babe" even though he played as a Red



National Student News Service, 1994

continued on next page

# The "New" Republican Victory and the "Contract with America"

By Craig R. Whitney

Election Day on November 8, 1994 signaled a new Republican dominance in American politics. The Democratic Party, who dominated the national political scene almost completely for 40 years (the major exception being the White House), was finally ousted by the opposing party, Republicans now occupy 31 state houses, 52 seats in the senate, control the House of Representatives, and signed 11 governorships. All Republican incumbents in Congressional, state legislative, and governorship elections remain undefeated. Speaker of the House Tom Foley was defeated by George Nethercutt, a Washington lawyer. He was the first speaker to be unseated since 1862. New York Governor Cuomo, a nationally known liberal, was defeated by George Pataki, a upstate New York senator. A few, like Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, managed to win their elections.

Congressman Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Phil Gramm of Texas and Senator Bob Dole of Kansas are the most well-known and influential of the "new" Republican majority. They are very conservative and profess to be different from traditional, Northeastern republicans like former President George Bush. They create an outsider, anti-Washington D.C. veneer and claim to be friends and allies of ordinary people. On the national and political issues, the "new" Republican majority favors an armaments buildup, advocate term limits for senators and rep-

resentatives, and want a smaller federal government. On economic issues, they want de-regulation and tax relief for big corporations. They want lower income and sales taxes and want to replace social-welfare programs with "workfare", a solution which is impractical due to strapped state and federal budgets and high unemployment rates. On the social aspect, the "new" Republican opposes abortions, gun-control bans, and favor school prayer and "parental choice" for children's education by implementing vouchers for parents to use to send their sons and daughters to private schools. This is highly ridiculous and very extravagant because the federal deficit is already high and considering that taxes would have to be increased to close the gap. Adopting their tough, crime-fighting stance, the "new" Republicans want to end parole for all "violent" convicts, favor the death penalty and limiting access of habeas corpus to prison inmates.

Followers of the "New" Republican agenda, at least for the time being, are numerous. They include not only businessmen and other members of the middle-class, "rednecks" and other traditional G.O.P. supporters, but also many workers and lower-middle class people who are struck with corporate downsizing, lay-offs, temporary jobs, and real decline in disposable income. They are anxious over real economic conditions (as opposed to paper statistics of higher corporate stock value and rising employment due to downsizing and creation of temporary jobs) and re-

main frightened of the future. Because of their insecurity and anxiety and disgust with the status quo in Washington D.C. they fell victim to scare tactics and paved the way for the "New" Republican victory.

The tenets of the "Contract with America" are central to "New" Republicanism. The document was signed by the Rep. Newt Gingrich and his Congressional allies in September on Capital Hill. The "Contract with America" contains plans of budget cuts, decreases in taxation and new spending in areas such as defense. It's not clear about specific spending cuts that will finance new spending in defense and shrink the deficit and interest rates. Other parts of the document include some tax relief of families with children and a line-item veto for budget matters which gives the president the power to veto certain budget parts. The chief Republican investment that supposedly will help uphold the "contract" is the paraphrased "Balanced Budget Amendment," an amendment that will establish tight controls on federal spending. Again, the Republican proposals are impractical because there might be an instance, such as war on economic depression, that will render the amendment a hindrance.

The elections of 1994 may signal a new brand of politics but it is not a revolution, contrary to what the "New" Republicans and their apologists say. If this was truly a change, truly a revolution, the new officeholders wouldn't cater to separate in-

terests and pressure groups (like NRA, the Christian Coalition, Operation Rescue, among others). They would not kowtow to the establishment in the nation's capital as all politicians do. And, they would not advocate ending regulation of corporate America or want to give tax relief to big businesses. The fact remains: New Republican ties to corporate and lobbying interests are binding! If they really had the interests of the people in mind, the "new" republicans and their three leaders Gingrich, Dole, and Gram, would advocate a woman's choice between giving birth or abortion, would not have limits to constitutionally-guaranteed free-speech and resist the temptations of power and privilege.

The elections show that history does repeat itself. In 1946, as in 1994, the electorate was weary of years of Democratic domination in the political scene. Waters held Pres. Truman and fellow Democrats responsible for inflation, slow economic growth, and big government. It is exactly what the majority of American voters did on Nov. 8, 1994. The Republican opponents have an alternative platform as they did in 1946. Because of economic recovery and mass support of New Deal programs, American voters remained Democratic and soon ousted the new Republican Congress (the 80th Congress) when the hard times came to an end by 1948. The electorate, with its dependency on middle-class entitlement programs (like social security) and support of it, may do the same with the present Republican Congress if "recovery" goes into full swing.

## They Shall Not Pass

By Gary

Adolph Hitler, Alive & Well, & Getting Busy On The South Shore Of Staten Island—Purge Our Island Of Neo-Nazi Scum—Drive The So-Called "Church of Creation" Out Of Tottenville Now Before Their Next Atrocity

Once again, our worst nightmares are coming true in our own home town. Once again, we in & around Staten Island are being challenged in a personal & special way to stand up and speak out against this madness. And yet once again, Stand Against The Klan (SI,) is now calling on all decent people and the left / workers movement to act. The headline on page 1 in last Friday's SI Advance (Dec.2nd), "NO HOLIDAY FOR HATRED—VANDALS DESECRATE MENORAH AT SI MALL / \*NAZI LITERATURE FOUND NEAR THE SITE," speaks for itself. By now many of us know this tune only too well.

For some of us the only real issue is precisely this: how can we fight back, what can we, what must we do now? By a remarkable coincidence, SI was given a report last week by a respected UFT & African-American community leader on the island about a fascist outfit on the island called the "Church of the Creation." According to our report these lunatics have attacked a black couple parked at Midland Beach and a pair of elderly Jewish couples in Jersey.

Only two weeks ago SI stumbled upon a gas station on the outskirts of downtown Eltingville on Amboy Road that was defaced with several swastikas and signed "SI SKINS."

During October, again in the Eltingville-Great Kills area, near Sycamore & Armstrong Avenues, we photographed a German Iron Cross flag another neo-Nazi lunatic was prominently displaying. This sicko coward pulled this racist banner down once he knew he was being watched and photographed. The Iron Cross flag, dating back to the glory days of Otto Von Bismarck (old Mr. "Blood & Iron" himself), is today outlawed in Germany, as it is often found at various neo-Nazi actions there. Although we celebrate this modest victory, we still need to find out exactly who this creep is. On top of all this, a second Jewish cemetery in two years, in Richmondtown, was destroyed.

When we shot pictures of the defacement, not far away was a gravesite bearing a plaque indicating that there lay buried a holocaust survivor.

While some others choose to bury their heads in the sand and pretend that by ignoring this kind of stuff it will just go away, it is our honor to bear witness and begin preparing for the sobering task of putting these fascists down. We fully appreciate how serious a task this indeed truly is. The question for the faint-hearted is; do we really have a choice? "Free speech for fascist terrorist killers?" say some (though perhaps not all) liberals of the ACLU & Co? Not in our or any other decent self-respecting community. Tell that to the holocaust survivors of Skokie, Illinois.

The time to begin organizing to act is now. Not tomorrow. Nor the day after tomorrow. If not now, when? If not you,

who? We will know how very busy many groups and individuals are. For that we salute them and you who care enough to read this SI is duty bound to issue this urgent call for action now. It does seem that our worst fears are now being realized, now culminating with this tearing down of a thousand dollar Hannukah Menorah at the SI Mall. The KKK / Skinhead / neo-Nazi cancer which the SI Advance announced to the world was in our midst in '92 in a five-part series that winter has frighteningly metastasized.

We are Stand Against The Klan. When the Advance first put out this story in a five-part series two winters ago, we came together on the steps of borough hall in a rally of more than 100 concerned people to express our outrage and burning desire to stand against fascists who have the audacity to think they can get away with inflicting their sickness upon this community, specifically targeting their racist filth directly at our young people. How dare they. We must, we will stop them. "By any means necessary." When Stand Against the Klan was born we pledged this will not be allowed to happen. In the immortal phrase of La Passionara, Dolores Ibaruri, during the great and tragic anti-fascist Spanish Civil War, "No Pasaran," —THEY SHALL NOT PASS.

Stand Against the Klan is deeply grateful to our friends and comrades at CSI Voice who stand shoulder to shoulder with us in anti-fascist struggle.

Out in the mid-west where there seems to be no end of fascist provocations and police-protected KKK rallies, for merely spitting in the face of Klansmen, two anti-Klan comrades now face charges that could lead to prison terms of ten years in jail.

We stand with them too. So should all decent people. As our plans develop for action go forward we will do our best to keep the CSI Voice community informed ASAP. Thanks again to the editorial team of the Voice.

## ...Unfit Sports Teams

*continues from previous page*

Sox, a Yankee, and a Brave. Shoeless Joe Jackson remained the same great hitting star even after being an Indian and a White Sox player. So, as Shakespeare said, "What's in a name?"

But names ARE important: they set a tone and an overall feeling to the fan as to what the team is about. If a person likes animals he/she might root for the Tigers, Lions, Cubs, Bears, Dolphins, etc. If the fan is a bird-watcher, he/she may cheer for the Cardinals, Blue Jays, Orioles, Eagles, Falcons, or Seahawks. Cities often name their teams after something representative of their culture: the New York Giants in the 1880s referred to the skyscrapers; the Brooklyn team was named for the borough's trolley-dodging citizens; Houston's Astros, Rockets, and Oilers are part of that city's space and refinery institutions; the Forty-Niners are from San Francisco's gold rush of the American West; and the New York Knickerbockers represent a Dutch group that had settled in that state in the 1600s.

It is high time that cities like Atlanta, Cleveland, K.C., and especially Washington, D.C. seriously consider altering the names of their franchises out of respect for a people that had inhabited this continent long before they were conquered and converted into logos for athletics organizations. The legacy of Native Americans should not be found in a sports arena. If the commercial image of the American Indian can be removed from the nickel and penny of long ago, then the same can be done with the teams that we all cheer for today.

**Glimmering Death**  
by Craig R. Whitney

Here they come, the atomic missiles  
as they rocket faster than the speed of sound.  
Here they are, great piercing projectiles  
as they explode after crashing to the ground.

Warheads, Warheads on the horizon  
the Earth shall be scared black when all is done.  
Warheads, Warheads on the horizon  
the wise know that this war cannot be won

SEE THE GLIMMERING DEATH

From dawn below, the Commanders of War  
will act as the Engineers of Destruction.  
They shake the plant to the very care  
their people of earth face their blackest hour

WATCH THE GLIMMERING DEATH

War leaders continue with the conflict  
the people on the earth look to the sky with  
dread.

**Perfection**

Then, when all seemed hopeless  
A glimmer, a silver stream of flight  
Dashed across our lives, stabbed us all in the eyes  
We were wise, alive, casually suicidal  
Belly tensed, chest beating madly  
Willing and able to cleanse the city with our  
Youthful charms

Now all grasp at plastic rides to glory  
Warm skin waits on the passenger side  
As some of us willing, will go mad  
Womb veterans entertaining the gutless survivors

I am an honest, sincere, thinking individual  
Therefore I am an outlaw  
A clown since the dawn of time  
Soaked, stretched, petrified against a beaten canvas  
Floating between the rules  
Waiting for submission  
Struggling for perfection in every eye I meet.

**pen, prayer, dollar**  
by Steve Fried

impossible to fabricate amends  
for intrigued friendships  
or decide to end my line  
before judge renders or clerk  
reads condescendingly sound  
evidence in a string of death  
conventionally arranged for me  
pen, prayer, dollar, dream of a gun

**Bloodshed**

(dedicated to all my black and boricua brothers and sisters)  
ONE BLOOD

by Miguel "Jah Roots" Melendez

Red streets, no stop signs to stop the screams  
no green light to let me go from here.  
My brothers are facin' Bloodshed  
They're killing themselves!  
They're killing themselves!

Police kill our revolutionary spirit,  
and smother our revolutionary cries.  
they Beat us, they beat our brains in  
till our thoughts spill out on this ground.  
This unholy ground

This Red Street covered with Bloodshed

my sisters are facin' Bloodshed  
They're killin their Babies  
They're killin our Revolutionaries

My sisters are bein' raped and abused  
Their souls are becoming polluted  
They are becoming more and more filthy  
Don't sell your souls sister, hold on!  
Sister, Hold On!

Don't give up, not yet no not yet  
But who can sustain and hold on  
When their vagina's are spilling Blood all over  
the street  
BLOODSHED! BLOODSHED!

MY children are crying tears  
from their eyes  
Their tears are of Blood  
Why do they cry tears of Blood  
Who is to Blame for all this Bloodshed?  
Is it the White Man?

I can't answer, I can't speak  
Because I'm Bleeding  
Yes I'm Bleeding  
I'm Bleding all over these same streets  
Help Me!  
Help Me!  
Who can help me now that I'm bleeding all over?  
I'm bleeding all over the same streets you bleed

Red Streets of Bloodshed  
no stop signs to stop the screams  
no green light to let me go from here

# Poets

Divine madness, Fuck Him  
I wear this guilt as my own  
Love us, make us real  
I am your servant  
I am your slave  
New poems, poems to spare, I have poems to burn

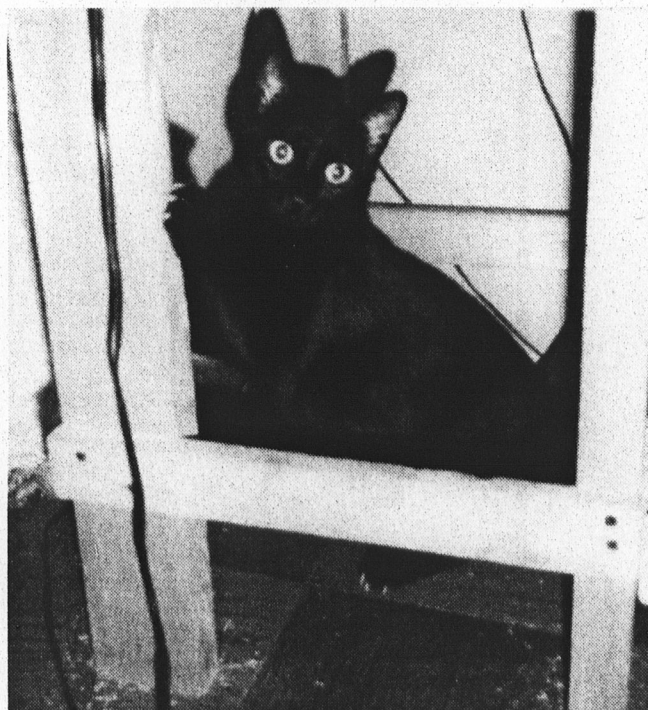
Love me, make me wise, someday our eyes will learn  
So brutally forgiving, I have poems for your perusal  
Good ones and bad ones growing on this silly vine  
Strangling your skull, WE HAVE POEMS  
I SCREAM POEMS  
For the future 'cause I'm so misunderstood  
Ha, Ha, HA  
The artist will have the last laugh

But for now, poems will have to do

Poems, Poems  
Poems to spare  
Dripping, sliding, gliding from the skull poems  
Like a warm flesh blanket  
We come to you in hope  
That you will eat our mind.

-LB

He had a little doll  
that belonged to his sister.  
It was pretty and fragile like she was.  
His father had tools he worked with  
to help feed the family  
They were now his.  
His mother gave him a scarf to  
keep him snug and warm during the winter.  
This was his also.  
He put these things into a box  
and called it home.  
by KTC



## Garden Of Souls by David Lipp

They found me guilty of trying to  
run through the garden to get to you.

Shadows come at me to try and see  
if my soul should be with them or me.

I can feel their presence pulling me  
into their halls of misery.

The hell that I am subjected to  
tries to burn my vision of you.

Resistance can't seem to penetrate  
the angry souls who decide my fate.

They tie me up to testify  
and burn my words as if they were lies.

Now the soulful sight of you I barely see  
as your fading voice becomes a memory.

This guilty soul cannot be free  
because the garden has imprisoned me.

## The Cat That Wouldn't Quit by David Lipp

You're a cool stick cat  
when you sliver by  
you're always trying to enter  
the human confines.

Preying on affection  
is the way you spend your time  
you're a down and dirty pussy  
preferring water to wine.

Now you can cry and clamor  
until you think you're divine  
but all that will get you  
is a kick to the behind.

Cat-like reflexes  
you think make you superb  
but when you try to draw blood  
you get kicked to the curb.

I hate you, I hate you  
when you act this way  
I'd prefer to remember you  
on a better day.

So now you're not going to be  
much more to me than what you are  
you're just a flaky, annoying,  
cat scratching, pathetic superstar.

You were cute, soft, and cuddly  
and you got in good  
but now you act like a bitch  
who's harder than wood.

Now you may think  
I'm an animal hating piece of shit  
but this is how I feel  
about the cat that wouldn't quit.

# SEXIST TOONS

by Debra Behr

Animation has always been entertaining to people of all ages; especially children. Animation has taught children many different values and has left various impressions on them. For example, the Flintstones demonstrated the strength of children in working class families while Popeye taught the lesson of nutrition. Parents have used cartoons as trusted baby-sitters, believing no harm could ever emerge from such animated characters. Naturally, there has been talk by critics and concerned parents on the violence displayed in cartoons. Still, they exist on television and parents allow their children to view, what is referred to as "safe cartoons", like Disney classics.

However, there are more harmful messages than Elmer Fudd shooting Bugs Bunny's head off. Instead children are learning at an early age the false images and roles of men and women from cartoons. Most, if not all Disney cartoons from Snow White to Aladdin display women as helpless damsels in distress waiting to be rescued by their prince charming. Such methods of socialization of children are not seen as dangerous in our society; instead, they are continuously perpetuated.

If we look at the popular cartoons from the past, we can see the endless display of oppressed female cartoon characters that the animated media has passed off as expectable role models for children. In the cartoon Popeye, the female character Olive Oil, is constantly being brutalized by the character Brutus, a big fat guy. Olive Oil is never shown as a woman who can defend herself. She, however, yells for her true love, Popeye, to free her from the abusive clutches of Brutus. This cartoon not only teaches the nutritional importance of "spinach", but also that women, who are always victims, cannot defend

themselves without the aid of a man, the hero.

When women are not stereotyped as helpless victims, then the image is "barefoot pregnant in the kitchen." This oppression is displayed in the old time favorite cartoon The Flintstones. This cartoon is based on the concept that men go out to work while women stay at home to keep up the house and raise children. The worst image of sexism in The Flintstones can be seen in the treatment of Bam-Bam and Pebbles, the children in the cartoon. Bam-Bam has super-like strength while Pebbles is adored because of her cuteness and innocence; the common image of a little helpless girl and the strong boy.

Most, if not all, cartoons have male main characters like Scooby Doo, Woody Woodpecker, Space Ghost, He-Man, Batman, X-men, etc. Even the titles of these cartoons are sexist because of the way the word 'man' or 'men' is connected with the whole story. The only female characters in Bugs

Bunny cartoons are a little bird named Tweety Bird and the old lady who keeps her in a cage. Even female super-hero

cartoons are extremely sexist. Wonder Woman runs around in a scimpy body suit as she saves the world. In The Fantastic Four, the female hero, Susan Storm can only eliminate the evil which befalls the earth by turning invisible. In other words, a female can only be a savior, hero, if she is unseen. Whenever the "super women" cartoon comes out it is always based on a previous "super mans" standard. For example, He-Man came into existence first and then She-Ra (Co-Starring a Barbie doll with a sword) found its self on television.

Disney animation is not at all innocent of perpetuating the false impression of Females that are taught to children. This false impression of women began with Disney's first full-length animated movie, Snow White. The

wicked witch/stepmother is only hungry to claim her title as the most beautiful women in the entire world and she will do anything to gain that status even if it takes killing Snow White. As Andrea Dworkin points out, "She was, in fact, ambitious and recognized that beauty was coin in the male realm, that beauty translated directly into power because it meant male admiration, male alliance, male devotion." In this cartoon we can see two depiction of women, (1) a women in power who is the wicked witch and (2) Snow White who is beautiful and also helpless. A beautiful women's role at the end is to die and only to be revived by "Prince Charming" who comes to her savior. Again the typical Disney Cartoon shows women ultimately as helpless oppressed figures or women who are in power consequently evil witches.

Again and again such oppressive ideologies are carried out by Hollywood, that the list of images goes on. Most recent attacks on women as passive individuals can be seen in Aladdin, and Lion King.

The animated media continuously and constantly teaches our children these sexist roles of men and women. Little girls learn that their role in life is to await "prince charming" to rescue them from the clutches of evil. Other models that are set up by the sexist bourgeoisie, are usually the models of women running around half. If any model that is shown of a successful women that model carries the burden of stress. This type of picture displays that successful women are unmarried stressed out "witches." Unfortunately, a society which cries out equality still let's these oppressive images to be implanted in the children's mind.



"Do I hear \$10 for Olive Oil"

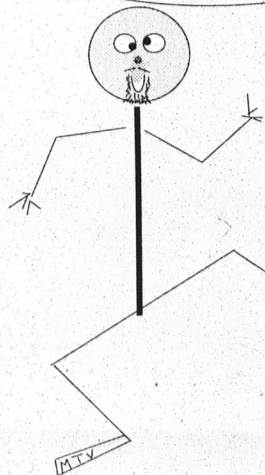
Dear J.P. ,

We , the members of the hacky-sack playing community of CSI do find fault the cartoon on page 18 of Vol. XV , Issue 2 11/14/94 . We feel that you have insulted us without just cause . You have inferred that hacky-sack players are mindless . On the contrary , we often discuss such salient issues as particle physics , social welfare reform , political issues and history . The fact that we are able to juggle a ball with our feet at the same time can only be attributed to our superior intellects .

12/2/94

Why go to a rally to defend higher education, when I can discuss the multi-dimensional reality of my foot.

Cordially Yours,



Actual J. Spatch Bio Major  
 James Curry BUSINESS MAJOR  
 Therese Carey ENGLISH MAJOR  
 Jimmy VanDyke LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR  
 James A. Sciacca Physics  
 Louis Algorant ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING  
 Melissa Finnerman Education  
 Paul E. Kibler ENV. SCIENCE  
 Michael S. Rogers Education  
 Kenneth A. Hall Communications  
 Robert Reaburn Liberal Arts  
 Kent A. Morales Liberal Arts  
 William Quinn Biochem. Major

**Question  
The  
Knowledge**

A FILM BY JOHN SINGLETON

# HIGHER LEARNING

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS  
A NEW DEAL PRODUCTION  
A FILM BY JOHN SINGLETON  
"HIGHER LEARNING"

STARRING JENNIFER CONNELLY ICE CUBE  
OMAR EPPS MICHAEL RAPAPORT  
KRISTY SWANSON  
AND LAURENCE FISHBURNE

MUSIC BY STANLEY CLARKE  
CO-PRODUCED BY DWIGHT ALONZO WILLIAMS  
PRODUCED BY JOHN SINGLETON AND PAUL HALL  
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOHN SINGLETON

SOUNDTRACK ON EPIC SOUNDTRAX

**At Theatres Soon**

# Picasso wasn't African

by KyungHee Yoo

Is it not true that even within the experience of imperialism, the deeply antagonistic relation between the colonizer and the colonized is in fact an overlapping, interdependent relationship that connects the adversaries in many, usually unacknowledged ways?

Edward Said.

## Europe in Africa:

Imperialism is an ideology and a practice. In their practice of imperialism, European nations came to exert an immense amount of control over other cultures. We are interested in the colonization of Africa and its repercussions, as well as some of the consequences of the colonization of Africa on European culture.

European colonization of Africa led to an accumulation of objects of "ethnographic" interest. So-called primitive objects were assembled in important collections. These collections were made under culturally-biased European eyes during their colonial journeys into Africa. They constituted, however, a primary source for important movements of thought in Europe.

European imperialism, in search of raw materials for its expanding industries, forced African people to change their lifestyle. My purpose is to show that paralleling European parasitism in the material sphere, was a cultural parasitism. Cultural raw materials were also transferred to Europe, digested by European bourgeois consciousness, and reflected in the cultural sphere in Europe. The use of African art in modern Europe is what concerns us here. A new term is applied to primitive sculptures that suits European imperialistic ideology. The decontextualizing and the recontextualizing of African art, uprooted from its original material reality, to fit the

*The Cubists rebelled against the accepted, conventional art styles, and went further .... African artists were thought to have produced works in such complete freedom.*

universalizing bourgeois ideology is exemplified in this article by the Cubist school.

For the modern European artist, the world is a supermarket, in which one can acquire consumption goods, without being conscious of their origin; the objects have a life of their own. Alienated labor, and the fetishism of commodity typically bourgeois, shaped the European absorption of the Africanness of the sculptures. The Cubists were bourgeois individuals, with a bourgeois consciousness that developed in bourgeois lands. Their truths are of this specific historical era and their ideals fall within the logic of their social relations. Some philosophers pointed out that the Cubist artists developed an aggressive art which assaulted the seemingly immovable "facticity" and permanence of the object world, while encouraging a more active sense of its human production and reproduction.

The lived hegemonic position of European imperialism involved a dramatic process of development. It was a realized complex of experiences, relationships, and activities, with specific and changing pressures and limits. Its internal structures were highly complex. It continually had to be renewed, re-created, defended, and

modified. It was also continually resisted, limited, altered, and challenged by pressures not all its own.

Under these conditions, we think that the thesis of cultural imperialism, generally accepted, can be construed to accommodate the conflicting contradictions within the colonizing culture, and to make these a source for emancipating the colonized. Artists are part of a cultural expression that is especially conscious and active on the political level. With Cubism, Africa entered in the modern consciousness as a constitutive, power-demanding, emancipatory force. The inclusion of Africa in the European minds, can be seen as one of the factors



tors that led to the freeing of African-Americans from their bond-

The Ecole de Paris was, at the beginning of the Twentieth century, the most important art 'school,' including renowned artists like Picasso, Dali, Kandinsky, Modigliani, Mondrian, Ernst, Klee, and many others. They nurtured the most significant art movements of the century.

## Africa in Europe:

These "modern" artists were primarily attracted by the plastique configuration of African art. It was, however, the art's spirit that was captured by the modern Cubists. This spirit, was not specifically African, but universal. The forced humanistic universalization is the correlate, and other side of the Janus-faced imperialistic colonialization, and therefore control, of non-Europeans, materially and culturally. Of course, there was no African origin of Cubism, but African "influence."

These artists considered African sculptures only as works of art. They felt that, by its very presence, African sculpture had an existence in space free from all the established resemblances. The sculpture had value not because it did look like, but because it did not look like any object or model known to them. It was itself, a creation in a sculptural medium. Picasso defined Cubism as an art dealing primarily with forms; when the form is realized, it is there to live its own life.

Both African and Cubist works of art existed through their own invented forms, used for their own meaning and not to copy natural objects. Each form was something new, particular to the artist, his own. The African sculptor thought of his work as a communal property, usually with religious significance. The Europeans enforcing the commodification of the artwork, stripped it from its spirituality. African artisans made more pieces which substituted the former and fewer religious-aesthetic ones.

Bourgeois culture, of which Cubism is a rebellious tendency—and therefore still grounded in it by its very act of rebellion—

contains as one of its strongest constituents Humanistic ideals. The humanist paradigm holds that on basic human issues, there is no difference between primitive man and civilized man (original classification), the same psychological compulsion is behind the endeavors of the modern artists to abstract nature (the difference is superficial). The practice of the missionaries is an expression of such attempts towards universalization.

In the modern age, dominated by the cult of the individual, all art activity, with full cognizance of the unconscious impulses, became a glorification of individuality. The desire to express a personal experience, to search for individual truth, and to create imaginative, inventive works, new and personalized works, motivated modern art to a much larger extent than African art. The Cubist artists rebelled against the early mass production and mass consumption that alienated the individual from the community.

It was the time of Freud, who introduced new concepts for studying human behavior.

Einstein's theory of relativity was revolutionizing the commonly held views on the universe.

All this was reflected in art. The artist's questions were translated into Cubistic painting. A bottle (representing reality) was decomposed into parts which lost their identity with the bottle, and were used by the artist as new elements in paintings that became a new reality. The interchangeability of parts, the assembly line, and the supermarkets are the other side of this new reality.

Modernist artists rejected representation and symbolism for direct unmediated declarations. The work of art wants to be itself not a mere look alike. This conceptualization of art had two general effects. First, any meaning-giving action was thought to be subjective. Second, it helped phenomenological approach to art: to grasp the essential qualities of things (or artwork) without any presuppositions, analogies, associations, etc. Picasso's idea that when a painting is achieved, it is there 'to live its own life' is formally comparable to the African animistic beliefs.

Artists of great personality and imagination have usually reacted against the prevailing schools. The Cubists rebelled

against the accepted, conventional art styles, and went further as they sought to express the inner self not only liberated from conventional art but from inhibitions as well. African artists were thought to have produced works in such complete freedom.

## Africa in the World:

We have made some of the necessary connections between the modern Cubists and the African artists. My hypothesis, linking the European imperialist venture in Africa with the development of radical art movements in Europe, can seem a little bit eccentric. The usual treatment of the intersection of a colonizing country and a colony, deals with the changes in the colony's culture. This fact is not denied here, it is only reinforced and complemented, by looking at the repercussions of colonization on the colonizers' culture. Our purpose was to show some of the unacknowledged ways in which this cultural exchange occurs. Scholarly papers and wisdom acknowledges these facts but guards them from the general public by many institutionalized entities: museums, colloquies, and other instances of High Culture. The African-Americans, in their process of emancipation, had a lot to do with setting the record straight, by giving African Art its Lettres de Noblesse. The point here is not to give African Art a place in a pantheon, but rather to retrace the process and the ways by which it is today part of Western culture.

African thinkers looked at themselves, when thinking about emancipation, and found themselves shaped by the Western culture in ways that they could not count. An example would be African nationalisms which developed in the Twentieth century. The nation state was a European invention, imposed on the African peoples. They are the basis of the modern nationalisms. African thought was totally changed by the intervention of imperialist powers, and so was European thought. We restricted our inquiry to sculpture and painting, but African influence on European culture is present in music, food, clothing, philosophy, religion, and many other fields. The Europeans went to Africa, took the raw materials they needed and took also cultural objects that they processed in Europe and sold them throughout the entire planet. This fact is both an act of oppression and an act of uniting oppressed peoples from different cultures.



# Italian Workers Strike to Protect Pensions

by Edwin Luciano

For the past months, workers and students have been engaged in a series of large scale strikes to protest Silvio Berlusconi's, Italy's right-wing prime minister, proposal to slash pension plans. The total strike that took place on October 14 was the largest public demonstration in post-war Italy. Millions of Italians walked the streets of Italy in protest of the right-wing government's new budget which is designed to cut the state pension plan for Italian workers and make reductions in medical insurance and other social programs.

These proposals by the Berlusconi regime are no surprise. Signor Berlusconi was elected, along with the neo-fascists and Northern separatists that form the current coalition on a pro-business platform, and for the millions who supported the Berlusconi coalition, it's logical that Italy would favor the interests of large corporations (of which he personally owns quite a few) at the expense of the working people. However, the attack on social programs that were initiated after World War II did not begin with the Berlusconi faction. Italy's corrupt Democrazia Cristiana (Christian Democrats) had already proposed plans to "reform" the medical insurance by cutting benefits.

The Berlusconi right-wing has also proposed to cut the minimum wage for "new-entrees", that is first-time employed

workers, which has also been proposed in France but failed due to large scale protests and rioting. The trend we see in these moves is to reduce the benefits that workers receive in order to increase profits for big business. On December 1, the Italian government made a compromise deal to stop the recent wave of strikes. The Presi-

as one and the same as the government, have sought to increase the profit margin for business and squeeze the workers and those dependent on government aid, like the sick and the elderly.

The lessons from Italy's current crisis are two-fold. First, international capital is pushing to destroy the European welfare

*The American media has been especially silent about the numerous, and spontaneous splinter protests which have taken place throughout Italy in the last month.*

dent of Italy commented that this would make Italy "more attractive to investors". But will it be attractive to workers who create the wealth for the investors? This gives a clear picture of who's side the Italian government is on in a state which was supposedly founded on labor, and has a cog at the center of its national emblem. The right-wing has made these proposals not only in Italy but also in the rest of the world. With recent developments in the United States Congressional elections and the past electoral victories of the right-wing in France, the forces of international capitalism, which in Italy are seen by many

state that was much more sensitive to workers' issues. The second is that without a united front, workers' benefits are in danger of being trampled over by the industrial giants.

The American media has been especially silent about the numerous, and spontaneous splinter, protests which have taken place throughout Italy in the last month. It is not surprising that the interests that control the television and newspapers do not want to how government, so blatantly puppet of the interests of capital are in conflict with the welfare of the people who work for the capitalist infra-structure.

## ... Identity

*continues from page 10*

sexist and homophobic norms. One can not deny this. These attitudes are seen in the media, heard in the hallways and broadcasted over the air waves. Special oppression exist, but this fact alone does not complete the analysis as to the roots of the oppression. Upon closer scrutiny the source of the problem is located in one area, i.e. political economy, and it should be this fact that unites the different struggles of the specially oppressed together.

The issues, of racism, inequality of women and homosexuals, etc. are not independent from each other as we see it. They are all forms of oppressions that root from, and are imposed by the same class that holds and maintains power over the social, civil and political system. At times these groups can pose certain problems to the ruling class and must be dealt with. The response by the ruling class is one of compromise, as long as they do not lose control over the reigns of the economy. The push forward leaders, who may be elected into the political body, as tokens of equality. Such tokenism, however, does not relieve society of those cancerous prejudices, as our everyday existence so clearly accounts for.

*Such tokenism, however, does not relieve society of those cancerous prejudices, as our everyday existence so clearly accounts for.*

## ... Biased Jury

*continues from page 6*

RD - That is certainly a justified viewing on behalf of the people that that's the role of the DA office. I know in Brooklyn the DA has something called Law Enforcement Investigation Bureau. I am not sure but I think it was started under Elizabeth Holtzman. Where if a defendant who is being charged with a crime alleged that he or she was beaten up by the Cops, for example, or if there was some other misconduct, it's investigated by a section of the DA offices. That's all they do is investigate cops. The theory is to investigate the kind of thing you're talking about. The DA can't be working with the cops and at the same time investigating them. That's exactly why it is set up to investigate police conduct if they are charged with any allegations. It's funny because all of the investigators of this bureau are all former cops. You know in theory it sounds good, however, my experience with them hasn't been a good one.

V - If the GJ process is leaneant towards officers, can you tell us how this process is manipulated to protect police brutality cases?

RB - It is correct to say that the system is manipulated and more leanate in cases of police, that's the under the empirical evidence which support that, but at the same time you can also say that in theory that's what the GJ is supposed to do. It (GJ) is supposed to be a buffer between the state and the citizens. It maybe should work that way in the cases of everyone else, but it doesn't. Its been called a tool of the prosecution and has ben recognized as a toll of the prosecution and not an independant body. Eventhough, in theory it is an independant body. The DA has the authority and the discession to use the grand jury process in whatever way he sees fit.

We hope you enjoyed the Voice this semester. In the coming year we will try to be more frequent in our publications and continue to uncover pertinent news for the CSI community. If you are interested in finding out more about the Voice, or would like to contribute your skills drop by the office located in the Campus Center (BLDG 1C) room 230. The Voice is dedicated to critical investigation and solid political criticism of present capitalist relations.

A major problem with identity politics is that it keeps the working class politically divided. This methodology, because it is not against capitalist relations becomes coopted by the rulling class, and is created to detach and divide the oppression of masses. It is a systematic technique that impairs the working class. Evidently the ruling class not only controls but owns the industries (production) and the media, therefore, they are in no danger of being one of the oppressed. Instead the rich get richer while the poor get poorer.

The working class is all too well integrated in the capitalist society where there is uneven development of class activity and an uneven development of class consciousness. When basic necessities like education, health care and other social needs of people are denied, collective power of workers can only overcome it, even if it has to be "by any means necessary."

However, the struggle for eliminating oppression cannot be fought by different sectors of the working class, and specially oppressed groups because then the struggle is operated on limited and fragmented experience. Thus the anger is limited and not aimed where it should be-at the rich oppressors! A bigger and broader struggle is needed to overthrow the abusers. In order to abolish the injustice that is played out by the capitalist plutocracy, all of the oppressed and exploited must operate around a working class program in direct opposition of the ruling rich.

A society which is oppressive in every sense of the word cannot be reformed, or "bettered", but has to be transformed, overthrown! Fighting, however, for immediate demands does not lead automatically and spontaneously to challenge the existence of the oppressive bourgeois society.

**Happy Mysticism!**